

## **Regional European Organisation of the FDI**

### **National Report**

**Country: GREECE**

**Association: Hellenic Dental Association**

**Venue: Almaty 24-25/4/2020**

**Year: 2019**

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

#### **Changes**

##### *in the association and its organisation*

A. In April 2019 a new Council was elected to the HDA for a four-year term.

B. New provisions in Law 1026/80 were voted by the Greek Parliament

- The term of Service of all dental professional organizations is four years now.

- Council members' election based on specific geographical areas restrictions with a proportionality was abolished. With the new provision, all candidates for Council members are equal to opportunities and rights regardless of the local Dental Society they are registered in.

C. The "HDA-Scientific Affairs Institute" (H.D.A.-S.Af.I.), established by Law 4486/17, article 100 is supervised by HDA and acts as a management and promotion body for the dentists' lifelong learning. It continues its activity by certifying the participating dentists to all accredited dental events in Greece.

D. Since April 2019, all licenses for practicing Dentistry and recognition of professional titles, specialties and qualifications in Greece are examined and issued by the HDA, according to L.4600/2019.

E. After a decade of controversies, claims and judicial interventions, all dentists working for NHS are full and exclusive employees of NHS and they do not have the right to practice dentistry privately.

F. A new dental Specialty (Hospital Dentistry) is being negotiated with the Government.

G. Furthermore, we are in negotiations with the Ministry of Health for the abolition of the banning of N<sub>2</sub>O use by dentists.

#### **Trends and developments:**

##### *in professional politics*

In the context of amalgam phase down compliance we have informed Greek dentists about the new legislative data as they are forced by the EU legislation.

At the same time, we have created and posted a brochure for informing the public about amalgam use limitations.

##### *in health and social politics*

-HDA has incorporated lessons on dental prevention and nutrition into the school curriculum through the Ministries of Health and Education.

- HDA funded the construction of a playground in the fire-stricken area of Mati Attica.

### ***in educational politics***

The 39th Panhellenic Dental Congress was successfully held on 24-26 /10/19, in Heraklion, Crete, organized by HDA.

The 40th Congress will take place on 15-17/10/20 in Athens.

HDA supported four regional dental conferences organized by local Dental Societies.

### ***in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes)***

- It is more than thirty years the Greek citizens have no benefit for dental services from the public insurance system. Today's dental services are mainly financed by family budgets and to a very small extent through private insurance policies. It is still an aim and a question when and in which budget, the state will approve compensation for dental works.

- The Greek parliament has recently adopted a new insurance law. The insurance contributions of dentists (free practitioners) are disconnected from their income. They are fixed and the same for all citizens, same contributions for same benefits. There are five insurance categories that each dentist can join upon request.

### **Corporate Dentistry**

#### ***position of NDA towards dental chains***

Legislation allows dental chains to develop in Greece. Dental chains are estimated in about 1% of the dental clinics.

#### ***problems with dental chains***

No problems have been recorded so far.

#### ***possible solutions***

HDA's position is to minimize and eliminate investors' participation in any form of primary health (dental) care service provision Units, below of 50% stake per Clinic or Company.

### **Changes in fees:**

The fees remain at the same level for the last 10 years.

### **Information regarding promotion of the World Oral Health Day:**

We celebrated the WOHD 2019. The main activities were: - Promotion of material to local dental societies and instructions for their activation-participation, - Press Releases, - Newspaper Articles, - Interviews - Participation in Radio broadcasts and TV Shows, etc.

### **Further information (activities):**

### **What are your 3 main concerns?**

1. The invasion of traders-investors in Health and the legislative provision for their presence and development in relation to Dentistry 2030 vision (employing dentists).
2. The non-integration of Dentistry into the Health policy programs of the International Political and Social Organizations.

### **3 points you would like to discuss**

*A. Determination of a minimum number of dental work that every State must reimburse fulfilling the safeguard of public oral health. Budget quota.*

*B. Setting advertisement and information thresholds in the view of new technological communication capabilities.*

*C. Establishment of a European Code of Ethics for cross-border professional promotion and advertisement.*